

REMARKS

Summary Of Office Action

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application.

The Examiner allowed claims 1-3, 5-12, and 20.

Claim 4 was objected to for a minor informality, but would be allowable if amended to overcome the objection. Claim 16 was also objected to, but would also be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 13-15 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kotloff U.S. Patent No. 6,450,668 (hereinafter "Kotloff").

Summary of Applicants' Reply

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1-3, 5-12, and 20, and the indication that claims 4 and 16 would be allowable if amended to overcome their respective objections.

Applicants have amended the specification to add a patent number not known at the time of filing.

Applicants have amended independent claim 13 to include the limitations of dependent claim 16 and have accordingly canceled claim 16. Claim 4 has been amended to correct the minor informality, and claims 1, 13, and 20 have been amended to delete unnecessary limitations. No new matter has been added.

Application No. 10/645,749
September 10, 2004 Reply To
Second Office Action

Reconsideration of this application in light of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Rejections Of Claims 13-15 and 17-19 and
The Objection To Claim 16

Claims 13-15 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kotloff. Claim 16 was objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

These rejections and the objection are respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended independent claim 13 to include the limitations of dependent claim 16 and have accordingly canceled claim 16, rendering moot its objection. Claim 13, and claims 14, 15, and 17-19, which depend from claim 13, should now be allowable.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 13-15 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The foregoing demonstrates that claims 1-15 and 17-20 are allowable. This application is therefore in

Application No. 10/645,749
September 10, 2004 Reply To
Second Office Action

condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are accordingly respectfully requested.

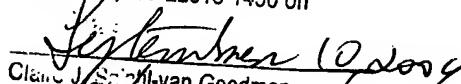
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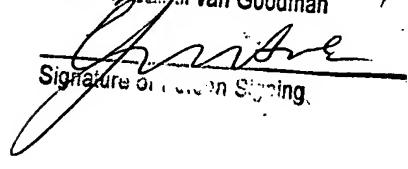
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